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Exhibit A

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MEMPHIS TN 38132

MAILED

AUG 30 2010

In re Application of :
Pafford, et al. :
Application No. 08/740,031 :
Filed: October 23, 1996 :
Attorney Docket No. MSDI-1 / MSDI-455 :
OFFICE OF PETITIONS
DECISION ON PETITION
UNDER 37 CFR 1.182

This is a decision on the "PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.181 AND 1.182 TO INVOKE THE SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE USPTO FOR INSERTION OF PRIORITY CLAIM INTO AN ABANDONED APPLICATION", filed December 14, 2009.

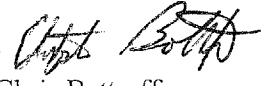
The petition is **GRANTED**.

Petitioner requests that the instant abandoned application be amended to include the addition of a priority claim to application Nos. 08/603,676 and 08/543,563. Petitioner is correct that 35 U.S.C. § 120 permits entry of a subsequent amendment or ADS to an abandoned application in applications filed prior to November 29, 2000 to include the benefit of an earlier filing date for purposes other than prosecution. See Sampson v. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, 195 USPQ 136 (D.D.C. 1976). The instant application was filed on October 23, 1996.

The address listed on the petition differs from the correspondence address of record. While a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address on the petition, all future correspondence will be directed to the address of record until such time as Applicants provide proper instructions to the contrary.

The abandoned application is being returned to Files Repository.

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to Petitions Attorney Cliff Congo at (571) 272-3207.


Chris Bottorff
Supervisory Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

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